nature net

The NatureKenya Newsletter www.naturekenya.org October 2001

BirdLife

World bird festival

WORLD BIRDWATCH

6–7 October 2001

It's finally here !!!

Hope you have already planned to be part of this exciting weekend. If you have not and need some ideas on where to go, get in touch with Saida at the Nature Kenya office.

Team Entry Form

Please return your entry forms as soon as possible, so that areas of coverage can be well coordinated.

The organising committee can place individuals who wish to enter the competition with a team . Please contact the Birdwatch coordinators.

Activities for Nairobi at the National Museums Grounds 6th October

A fun family programme of activities has been scheduled for Saturday morning as listed below:

- Bird ringing demonstrations from 7:00 a.m.
- Guided bird walks in the Nairobi Botanic Gardens from 9:00 a.m.
- Talks & video shows at the Louis Leakey hall from 10:00 a.m.

Coast events

Birders are gearing up to visit different sites. Marlene Reid and Friends of Fort Jesus will be covering the Nguu Tatu area and other teams have proposed some beach areas, Haller Park (Baobab Trust) and the South coast. Interested groups can contact the Nature Kenya office for for more information.

T-Shirts available @650/-

With support from Tinga Tinga, the World Birdwatch 2001 T-shirts are available from the Nature Kenya front office. Buy your T-shirt now!!!

Take advantage of Special rates for accommodation

The following are special rates, kindly offered by the following properties:

- Mara Safari Club and the Ark @ 3000/- and the Aberdare Country Club @ 2500/- per person per night full board
- Outspan @ 2,800/- ppfb
- Solio Camp @ $70 ppfb

If your team would like to take advantage of these rates (subject to availability of space) please get in touch with Saida at the office.

Sponsored accommodation has been offered by:

- Marich Pass Field Studies Centre
- Elesavo Safari Lodge
- Kitengela Glass
- Sirikwa Safaris
- Bobong Camp
- ICIPE (Mbita Field Station)
- Block Hotels - Lake Baringo Country Club
- Mpala Ranch Nanyuki
- African Expedition Safaris

Please Note:

- All members visiting KWS National Parks and game reserves please obtain an entry waiver letter from Saida at the Nature Kenya offices.

Special Thanks:
To all our generous sponsors and to Sir Jeffrey James for once again kindly hosting the World Bird Watch 2001 launch on the 3rd October.

REPORTING

Family Nature Day a truly fun-filled event...

Held on Saturday, September 1st, 2001 at the Nairobi Arboretum.

The event was a success and many people turned up. Educational and fun activities spread around the central lawn all proved worthwhile attractions. Deserving special mention are the Nature walks and the Treasure Hunt which participants found really exciting.

After the success of this event and having learnt from the experience, FONA hopes to make the Family Nature Day an annual event.

Special thanks to the Sponsors and all who worked tirelessly hard to make this day such a huge success.

Fun activities at the family nature day

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attention birders! Get those migrants!

A most interesting and ambitious project is starting from Copenhagen University, Denmark, in co-operation with the Copenhagen Bird Ringing Centre.

The aim; to map the African distribution of all passerine bird species that migrate between the Palearctic and Africa! (Passerines are the small birds from the larks to the end of the bird book. The Palearctic is Europe, Asio and the Middle East.)

This will provide insight into the migration patterns, wintering distribution ond habitots used. Over the next two years, a large and publicly accessible databose will be set up with records of migrants in Africa. Eventually, this data will be used for conservation recommendotions.

The good thing is: everybody can contribute!! All records of migrant passerines are welcomed! Submit records to Nature Kenya, using the enclosed form containing instructions and pre-printed species list

The form, is ovoilable from the Noture Kenya office (by post if necessary). Photocopying the forms yourself would greatly help. After vetting and processing, records will be sent to the Denmark database.

Please start right away, because the first migrants of the season have olready been spotted. Contribute to this project ond to its conservotion implications; a great opportunity to keep o keen eye out for these smoll birds that undertake such incredible journeys!

For more information obout the project, have a look on http://www.zmuc.dk/commonweb/reseorch/migrotorybirds-africo.htm

EXCURSIONS

NOVEMBER

- **Day trip to Butterfly Centre & Nairobi N.P**
- **Masaai Mara with Nature Uganda**

DECEMBER

- **Christmas holidays – on the top of Mt Kenya**
- **Coast with Nature Uganda.**

For more information contact the Nature Kenya front office.

THANK YOU!

Donations to Nature Kenya by.

Phil Hickley of Eorthwotch for donoting o superb Pentex camera.

RSPB for donating two pairs of Binoculass.

These items will go o long way in assisting with conservation work.

Scopus is now available!!!

Scopus volumes 21 and 22 have just been published. Scopus is the ornithological journal of the Bird Committee of the Eost Africo Naturol History Society. *Kenya Birds*, also published by the Bird Committee with the Ornithology Department of the National Museums of Kenya, is part of the Nature Kenyo membership package. *Scopus*, the more technical journol, nos a separate subscription. Becouse of the long delays in production, volumes 21 and 22 are being sent to all currently listed *Scopus* subscribers.

Volumes 21 and 22 of *Scopus* are also avoilable from the Nature Kenya office at Ksh.500 each for Nature Kenya or Noture Uganda members, and Ksh.800 each for non-members. (Plus Ksh.200 for postage and handling if you wish them mailed to you.)

Volume 23 (also a single, combined issue) is scheduled for publication by the end of 2001.

To receive this issue please send Nature Kenya

- A Cheque for Ksh.500 (Noture Kenyo/ Nature Uganda member) or 800 (non-member)
- Your nome and mailing address
- Membership number and e-mail address if applicable

Postage within East Africo is included. If you live outside East Africa, please contact the Noture Kenyo office or check our website, www.naturekenya.org.

BIRDWATCHERS SAFARI KIT - Available in 2 sizes

Large Canvas Bag contains quality Binoculars, 'Birds of Kenya & Northern Tanzania' by Zimmerman & Turner, Map of Kenya, Bird Checklist & Pencil

Small Canvas Bag contains all the above except 'Birds of East Africa' by Richards replaces Zimmerman

Available from Rhino Leisure & Safari, Rhino House, Karen Rd, Nairobi

Phones: 884239, 884019, 0733 704892

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Sunday Birdwatch (Pot-Luck Outing)

Members meet at the National Museum, Nairobi car park at 9:00 a.m. the third Sunday of every month, **i.e. 19 October.** The members decide where to go. Bring lunch

TREE WALK

Guided Tree Walks in the Arboretum on the last Monday of every month i.e. **29 October from 9:30 a.m**. Meet at the FONA offices beside the Girl Guides HQ. *Those who are not members of FONA or Nature Kenya pay Ksh 100/- fee on arrival at the gate.*

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIRDWALKS

Bird watching walks at sites in and around Nairobi. Meet at the National Museum car park every Wednesday at 8:45 a.m. Return about 12:30 p.m. *Those who are not members can get temporary membership at Ksh 100 per birdwalk, payable on arrival at the car park.*

ARABUKO SOKOKE (COAST)

The Saturday birdwatch with the Arabuko Sokoke Forest Guides Association is on the first Saturday of each month i.e. **6 October, at 6:30 a.m**. from the Visitor Centre, Gede. Cost 100/- per person. This coincides with the World Birdwatch 2001 weekend and could well turn out to be very exciting as the whole world goes out to count as many species as they can.

FFJ Bird Walk (Coast)

Friends of Fort Jesus birdwalks are held the third Saturday of each month i.e. **18 October, at 4:30 p.m**. from Ratna Square, Nyali

DECLARATION

Nature Kenya does not accept any responsibility whatsoever in respect of negligence of any of its staff, volunteers or members organising the outings/trips or for any loss, injury, death or damage to property.

OCTOBER DIARY

Sat 6 & Sun 7th	World Birdwatch Weekend
Sat 18	FFJ Birdwalk
Sun 19	Pot Luck Outing
Mon 29	Tree Walk

Birdwalks every Wednesday Morning

Editor for the month
Anthony Kiragu

Bird Hotline 749957

Please note some of the records below are unconfirmed

Hinde's Babbler and Grey Cuckoo-shrike
Meru Anglicon Diocesan campaund / August
Marlene Reid & Phyllis Paltridge

Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse, White-headed Mousebird, and Magpie Starling
Samburu game reserve/ 5th September 2001
Philp & Ros Hechle/Patrick & Karen Plumbe

Hairy-breasted Barbet
Kakomega Farest/24th September 2001
Brown-chested Plover
Yala swamp/26th September 2001
Locust-Finch, Blue Swallow, and Red-headed Lovebird
Mungatsi (Busia grasslands)/28th September 2001
Shailesh Patel, Bernd de Bruijn & Gearge Eshiamwata

Maccoa Duck, and White-backed Duck
Mangua ponds Limuru /15th September, 2001
Wednesday morning bird walk

Barn Owls (2)
Natianal Museums of Kenya next ta Natural Sciences building car park/18th September 2001
James Wachira, Shailesh Patel and Jahn Musina

Please send details to *Kenya Birds*, c/o Nature Kenya or kbirds@africaonline.co.ke

Did you know??

Did yau know that one of the largest social graups the world has ever seen - the Brazilian free-tailed bat *Todarid brasilliensis* - lives in colonies of 20 millian individuals? *Mommol Committee*

CLASSIFIEDS

ENMACO is a community based conservation malaria/mosquito control group with a theme of "No Plastics Please". They are on a campaign for cotton bags instead of plastic.

Instead of using plastic bags use baskets, wrap in paper or use cotton bags availble at Nature Kenya, shops and supermarkets.

Remember, only the hand printed bags are ENMACO bags. You can buy one from the Nature Kenya front office or contact us on 0733-852500 for more information.

SAFEAST:

Offers training in First Aid and emergency procedures; child and infant care; and basic firefighting. For details contact 334112, 228168, 072 814140 or 0733 752554.

Indigenous trees for sale

Over 50 species of well grown indigenous trees are available from Carole Hemmings.
Contact her on 0151-47332 or
e-mail: hemmings@africaonline.co.ke

ADVERTISE IN NATURE NET

Reach over *1000* members by advertising in *Nature Net*

Youth committee on their way to the MauMau caves during a recent trip to Mt. Kenya